

Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 5 has been amended to read:

Figure 2 illustrates a search tree structure of PSCBs in accordance with the present invention and described in co-pending U.S. Patent Application, ~~(docket no. RPS920020018US1/2493P)~~ filed on November 22, 2002, serial no. 10/065,819, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. By way of example, a search of the tree in Figure 2 begins with the memory access request of the left or right half of the Root or level 0 Branch Table (BT) based on the Next Bit Test (NBT) result from the Lookup Definition (LUDef) or Direct Table (DT, not shown) entry for this search tree. The access of the first branch table half contains multiple levels of PSCBs of the tree optimized for the search type. If after descending through the first table an external (lower) branch table address is arrived at instead of a leaf address, then an additional memory access request would be made for only the left or right half of this lower branch table. This process continues until a leaf address is arrived at during the decent through the lower branch table halves. When the search arrives at a leaf address, the process terminates with a memory access request for the leaf data to determine if a match was found.